

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A coupled terminal unit (30) in which a plurality of terminal fittings (20) are coupled substantially in parallel by at least one coupling portion (31) and are to be separately arranged in a connector housing (11) by cutting off the coupling portion (30) after being inserted into terminal insertion holes (14) formed in the connector housing (11), wherein:

the coupling portion (31) is formed to be extendible in an arranging direction (AD) of the terminal fittings (20) of the coupled terminal unit (30),

an arrangement pitch (A) of the terminal fittings (20) is narrower than an arrangement pitch (B) of the terminal insertion holes (14) in a stamped-out state of the coupled terminal unit (30) from a conductive plate, and

the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings (20) can be made substantially equal to that (B) of the terminal insertion holes (14) by extending the extendible portion (31).

2. The coupled terminal unit of claim 1, wherein the coupling portion (31) is formed into a wavy shape to project along a thickness direction (TD) of the coupled terminal unit (30) when the coupled terminal unit (30) is stamped.

3. The coupled terminal unit of claim 2, wherein the coupling portion (31) connects adjacent terminal fittings (20) at intermediate positions (24).

4. The coupled terminal unit of claim 2, wherein the terminal fittings (20) each comprise a widened portion (23) having wider than other portions (21; 22) of the terminal fittings (20), and wherein the coupling portion (31) connects adjacent terminal fittings (20) at a position at the widened portions (23) thereof.

5. The coupled terminal unit of claim 2, wherein the terminal fittings (20) each comprise a bulging portion (24) to be engaged with the connector housing (11), and wherein the coupling portion (31) connects adjacent terminal fittings (20) at a position near the bulging portions (24) thereof.

6. A connector assembling method for a connector (10) comprising the following steps:

providing a coupled terminal unit (30) having a plurality of terminal fittings (20) coupled by at least one coupling portion (31) such that an arrangement pitch (A) of the terminal fittings (20) is narrower than an arrangement pitch (B) of terminal insertion holes (14) provided in a connector housing (11) of the connector (10), and

extending the coupling portion(s) (31) in an arranging direction (AD) of the terminal fittings (20) of the coupled terminal unit (30) to thereby make the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings (20) substantially equal to that (B) of the terminal insertion holes (14) and

at least partly inserting the terminal fittings (20) of the coupled terminal unit (30) into the terminal insertion holes.

7. The connector assembling method of claim 6, further comprising a step of cutting off the coupling portions (31) after the terminal fittings (20) are at least partly inserted into terminal insertion holes (14).

8. The connector assembling method of claim 6, wherein the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings (20) is made substantially equal to that (B) of the terminal insertion holes (14) upon inserting the terminal fittings (20) of the coupled terminal unit (30) into the terminal insertion holes (14).

9. The connector assembling method of claim 8, wherein the coupling portion (31) of the coupled terminal unit (30) having the terminal fittings (20) arranged at the narrower pitch (A) is pressed into a wavy shape to project along a thickness direction (TD) of the coupled terminal unit (30).

10. The connector assembling method of claim 9, wherein the coupled terminal unit (30) is provided such that the terminal fittings (20) each comprise a widened portion (23) having a wider width than other portions (21; 22) of the terminal fittings (20), and that the coupling portion (31) connects adjacent terminal fittings (20) at a position at or near the widened portions (23).

11. The connector assembling method of claim 9, wherein the coupling portions are extended by being pressed substantially along the thickness direction (TD).